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BOOK REVIEWS

CRISES IN THE HISTORY OF THE PAPACY: A STUDY OF TWENTY FAMOUS POPES WHOSE CAREERS AND INFLUENCE WERE IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH AND IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. By Joseph McCabe. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1916. Pp. xiv, 459. \$2.50.

This is a much more interesting, more instructive, and more practical book than a history of the Papacy alone would be. It is alive with the characters and personalities, the thoughts, words, and deeds of those who made the Papacy. For we must remember, as this book conclusively shows, that the Papacy was the result of a long process of evolution in which many forces, influences, circumstances, individuals, and processes of various kinds were at work. "The history of the Papacy," declares Mr. McCabe, "is very largely the history of Europe." Such a history, therefore, may well claim our attention and engage the efforts of our greatest historical scholars.

In the volume before us, written by a man who, in his works already published on Abelard, on St. Augustine, and on the Jesuits, has won a reputation as an historian of no mean order, the history of the Papacy is ably, fascinatingly, and, for the most part, sanely and soberly portrayed. The scope of the book is wide, for it includes the Bishops of Rome before the Papacy was even a dream and those Popes of our own time, including Leo XIII at the beginning of the present century.

We trace with interest, united with awe and wonder, and sometimes with dismay, the successive phases of the rise of the Papacy under Innocent, Leo, and Gregory, in the fifth and sixth centuries; its civilizing and uplifting influence under Nicholas I, Hadrian II, and John VIII, in the ninth century; its revival and steadily increasing power under Hildebrand, Innocent III, and the great Popes of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; we behold it standing on the tiptoe of its supremacy and toppling to its fall under Boniface VIII; and we trace its declining influence and greatness through the seventy years of demoralization at Avignon and the forty years' schism in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; we gaze upon the struggle to redeem itself

under Eugene IV and Nicholas V in the middle of the fifteenth century, until it lies prostrate in moral and spiritual ruin in the debauchery of Innocent VIII and Alexander VI; we view it staggering through the unchristian lives of Julius II, the war leader, and Leo X, the magnificent pagan. At last, the outraged majesty of the Christian faith and conscience, symbolized in the Ninety-five Theses posted on the chapel door in Wittenberg by Martin Luther in 1517, proclaims its utter collapse, so that it ceases to be the head and centre of the united Christianity of the West. Henceforth, from the beginning of the sixteenth century, the Papal Church is disowned by England, Scotland, Germany, Scandinavia, and later by France and America. In the new Papacy of Sixtus V of the sixteenth century and of Benedict XIV of the eighteenth century, aided by the Inquisition, the Council of Trent, and the Jesuit Society, it made vain efforts to preserve the ruins of its former greatness and power. In the life of to-day the Papal Church takes its place among the other Christian churches of the dismembered Christendom of the West.

Such a hasty outline gives but an imperfect conception of the scope and content of this important and valuable book. It is written in a style so graceful, so simple, so clear, and so scholarly, that the book is at once a model of historical writing, and is at the same time as interesting as a novel. His full and accurate use of the sources, especially those in the Vatican so recently made accessible to scholars, his references to, and in many cases his judicious comments on, the recent writers on the principal topics in the whole field of this history, his keen analysis of character, his able mastery of details, and his intelligent judgment of policies and methods,—all this serves to illumine every one of the twenty chapters of his book. CHARLES L. WELLS.

PLANTATION SONGS. By Ruth McEnery Stuart. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

There are qualities about Ruth McEnery Stuart's *Plantation Songs* that are keenly pleasing to anyone conversant with the real negro songs—and there are other qualities that tend to arouse the carping critic within him.